

REMARKS

By way of the present response, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12-16, 19-21 and 25-30 are amended; claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 are canceled; and new claims 31-33 are added. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12-16, 19-21 and 25-33 currently are pending.

The final office action includes a rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Such et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0207862). With respect to claims 1 and 8, the Examiner asserts that the Such et al. publication describes receiving, from an information component of at least one part of an apparatus, information about the at least one part of the apparatus, transmitted from the information component, said information component comprising memory and a processor; (FIG. 4 and related text in paragraph [0064]: printer device (#400) (information component of at least one part of an apparatus), memory (#405), processor (#401), Raster Image Processor (#407); information is transmitted to a calibration module (#409); [0071]: “When the color calibration required setting is identified by the calibration component 409, which may reside either within the printer device, or within the intermediate computer 401, the calibration component checks if it already has stored a set of calibration values...;” [0077]: “calibration component reads current settings of data stored at the printer device” (receiving information about the at least one part of the apparatus, transmitted from the information component)); determining instructions for optimizing at least one operation of the at least one part of the apparatus based on the received information ([0077]: “if...the calibration settings in the job description file are not the same as those settings currently in operation on the printer device...calibration procedure is initiated, which results in computation of a new set of calibration values...”); and transmitting the instructions to the information component for execution by the processor to optimize the at least one operation of the apparatus ([0064]: “calibration component 409 for applying calibration of ink tones and colors...”).

However, the Such et al. publication does not describe the combination of recited features including “interrogating one part of a plurality of parts of the self-contained apparatus, each of said parts including a respective information component comprising memory and a processor ... receiving, from the information component of the interrogated part, information about the one part transmitted from the information component of the one part ... determining if any other of the plurality of parts need to be interrogated ...

interrogating each of the determined other parts ...,” as recited in amended claims 1 and 8, and similar concepts that are recited in the context of a self-contained apparatus in claim 15.

The claimed subject matter operates to gather information from one or more parts of a plurality of parts of the self-contained apparatus and is directed to optimizing performance of at least one operation performed by the apparatus and to a self-contained apparatus including mechanisms for optimizing performance of at least one operation performed by the apparatus. For instance, as shown in Figure 1 and described in paragraph 0012 of the specification, an apparatus (e.g., item 12) may include a plurality of parts (e.g., parts 14(1)-14(3)). Each of the plurality of parts includes an information component (e.g., items 16(1) to 16(3)), which in turn, includes memory (e.g., 22(1)-22(3)) and a processor (e.g., (20(1)-20(3)) (see, paragraph 0013). The self-contained apparatus may be, for example, a device, a machine, or a system (e.g., a printer or a copy machine) (see, lines 1-2 of paragraph 0012). The claimed subject matter makes it possible to interrogate any of the parts determined needed for the operation being optimized, and to obtain information stored in the memories about those parts (see, paragraphs 0019 and 0020, and original claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18).

It is respectfully submitted that the Such et al. publication does not describe or suggest the claimed subject matter. While the Such et al. publication is concerned with implementing a closed loop color calibration method, it is directed to an entirely different device and operation. Specifically, the publication describes a printer system that includes a data processor and memory that communicates with a “calibration component” or “calibration module,” which may reside either in the printer or in a managing computer (see, lines 1-5 of paragraph 0071). According to Such et al., the calibration component stores a set of calibration values in the printer device (paragraph 0077, lines 17-18). These values concern the media type currently loaded into the printer, the type of print heads loaded onto the printer, information about whether the amount of ink used by the currently installed print heads since the current calibration values were generated exceeds a predetermined amount, and current environmental conditions, such as temperature and humidity. However, Such et al. does not describe the claimed features relating to a self-contained apparatus having a plurality of parts, where each of the parts has an information component including memory and a processor, and a process and mechanism for interrogating each of the parts determined

needed for optimizing an operation. In contrast, Figure 4 of Such et al. appears to show only *one* memory and processor included with the printer that is involved in a closed loop calibration procedure, and Such et al. is silent with respect to any particulars of parts related to media type, print heads and environmental sensing. More specifically, Such et al. does not describe that these parts include a processor and memory as claimed. Thus, Such et al. appears to describe interrogating only one part of the printer that includes memory and a process. Accordingly, Such et al. fails to at least describe the claimed processes of “interrogating one part of a plurality of parts of the self-contained apparatus, each of said parts including a respective information component comprising memory and a processor ... receiving, from the information component of the interrogated part, information about the one part transmitted from the information component of the one part ... determining if any other of the plurality of parts need to be interrogated ... interrogating each of the determined plurality of other parts ...,” as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8. Consequently, Such et al. also does not disclose at least a self-contained apparatus including “a plurality of parts, each said part including a respective information component comprising memory, a processor ... said memory having stored therein data about the at least one part,” the “interrogation system,” and the “determination system,” as recited in amended independent claim 15.

The action also includes a rejection of claims 25-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Such et al., in view of Groenteman (U.S. Patent No. 5,398,257). However, it is respectfully submitted that the Groenteman patent, which is relied upon for describing a processor that gathers and generates status information and transmits using a wireless transceiver, does not remedy the shortcomings pointed out above with respect to the Such et al. publication. Rather, Groenteman appears to describe a printer device including only one processor for gathering and generating status information about the device (see, column 2, lines 25-27) from sensor or information ports within the copying circuitry (see, column 2, lines 42-44), and Groenteman does not otherwise mention details of the parts of the device.

The methods and apparatus of present invention facilitate use of “smart” parts in a self-contained apparatus, for example, use of parts having relaxed and/or changing tolerances, wherein such characteristics are stored in memory of information components of

the parts. By accessing and receiving the information stored in the part through interrogation of the parts, instructions can be determined and transmitted to the parts to optimize one or more operations of the self-contained apparatus without sacrificing performance of the apparatus. It is respectfully submitted that the methods and apparatus of Such et al. and Groenteman do not suggest any such methods and mechanisms for receiving information from an information component of a part and implementing instructions at the information component of the part.

Claims 2, 5-7, 9, 12-14, 16, 19-21 and 25-30 depend from one of claims 1, 8 and 15, and are therefore allowable at least for the above reasons, and further for the additional features recited. Also, it is respectfully submitted that the printers described in Such et al. and Groenteman documents do not disclose or suggest the subject matter related to a copier or printer, as recited in new claims 31-33.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and allowance of this application. Prompt notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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